

02-R-0570

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBER FELICIA A. MOORE

A RESOLUTION THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES 2002 POLICY PRIORITY CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS KEY PLAYERS IN HOMELAND DEFENSE; SEEKING DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING AND GUIDANCE NEEDED TO HELP CITIES MEET OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- ☐ CONSENT REFER
☐ REGULAR REPORT REFER
☐ ADVERTISE & REFER
☐ 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
☒ PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred

3/18/02

Referred To:

Finance Executive

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
Date _____
Chair _____
Referred to _____

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

☐ 2nd ☐ 1st & 2nd ☐ 3rd
Readings
☐ Consent ☐ V Vote ☐ RC Vote

CERTIFIED

MAYOR'S ACTION

02-R-0570

A RESOLUTION

Felicia A. Moore
BY COUNCILMEMBER FELICIA A. MOORE

stating
A RESOLUTION THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES 2002 POLICY PRIORITY CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS KEY PLAYERS IN HOMELAND DEFENSE; SEEKING DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING AND GUIDANCE NEEDED TO HELP CITIES MEET OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, Homeland Security is a priority of the National League of Cities in 2002; and

Whereas, since September 11 cities have had to deal with many unfunded issues such as overtime costs for first responders and performing threat and vulnerability assessments of infrastructure; and

Whereas, cities need direct federal assistance to meet today's homeland security needs for training, assistance, planning, and development of an effective system for sharing critical information among designated authorities at all levels of government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY OF ATLANTA, that we urge the Georgia Congressional Delegation's strong support for direct federal funding to cities and towns for homeland security;

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Atlanta urges the Congress not to cut funding for existing federal programs vital to local public safety, such as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) and COPS program; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Municipal Clerk of the City of Atlanta is hereby directed to transmit a "true copy" of this resolution to all members to the Georgia Congressional Delegation.

National League of Cities



2002 Hot Issues

Local Priorities for Homeland Security

Homeland Security is a priority of the National League of Cities in 2002, and NLC will call on the federal government to recognize local governments as key players in homeland defense and will seek the federal funding and guidance needed to help cities meet their new national defense responsibilities.

Background

To prevent and respond to terrorism, it will be essential to coordinate federal, state, and local responsibilities for domestic preparedness. This has been a priority for cities since the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Direct federal funding to cities for emergency preparedness – planning; training; equipment; vital communications; and integration of police, fire and medical response systems – remains a top priority.

Since the September 11 attacks, heightened homeland security measures are local and national priorities – from overtime costs for first responders to performing threat and vulnerability assessments of infrastructure such as water, energy and transportation systems. According to a recent National League of Cities survey, an overwhelming majority of cities and towns are paying overtime for police and firefighters. Several jurisdictions have created local offices for homeland security. Strengthening the capacity of local health systems to prepare and respond to bioterrorism will require unprecedented resources. Municipal security-related expenses incurred since September 11 could exceed \$2 billion, according to several local officials.

Until now, national defense and security have traditionally been a federal responsibility. As municipal governments assume greater roles in the nation's war against terrorism, local priorities must be addressed including: direct funding for unforeseen overtime expenses for first responders and necessary investments in drinking water security and other infrastructure; coordinating federal programs for training, assistance and planning; and developing an effective system for sharing critical information among designated

authorities at all levels of government. Additional funding and deployment of emergency communications technology for first responders is gravely needed along with sufficient allocation of radio frequencies, or spectrum, to resolve interoperability problems that impede vital emergency communications among police, firefighters, and medical personnel.

Status

Congress has only funded a small fraction of programs essential to local homeland security priorities. For example, local governments received less than four percent of the total federal budget (over \$9 billion) for counterterrorism in fiscal year 2000, according to the Office of Management and Budget's *Annual Report to Congress on Combating Terrorism*, submitted May 18, 2000.

The President's FY 2003 budget proposal of \$3.5 billion for a "First Responder Initiative" to assist states and local governments in homeland security will be directed to state emergency managers. Other sources of federal funding vital to local public safety needs could take significant budget cuts, such as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

The future of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's Homeland Security Block Grant Act (S. 1737), which would provide direct funding to local governments to cover costs for many new security measures, including overtime for public safety personnel is uncertain, needing Republican support to stay alive.

Although Congress authorized a passenger fee for flights last year to help implement new aviation security requirements as part of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, other transportation modes have not been addressed (i.e. passenger rail, freight rail, public transit, container cargoes, seaports, and highway systems). Each has different security risks which should be assessed and federal funding options discussed. For example, passage of the Port and Maritime Security Act that would authorize funding for training, interagency coordination, and loan guarantees to local port authorities for financing security improvements, is essential. Shortly after September 11, Congress allocated approximately \$1.6 billion for funding bioterrorism preparedness as part of its emergency supplemental spending package (H.R. 2888/ Public Law No: 107-38). House and Senate leaders will meet soon to reconcile differences between H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001, and S. 1765, the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001. The measures would authorize more than \$1 billion in grants to states, local governments, and other public and private health care facilities to improve planning and preparedness activities, enhance laboratory capacity, educate and train health care personnel, and to develop new drugs, therapies, and vaccines. However, specific funding needs for improving local public health systems have not been fully considered.

In addition to H.R. 3448, which authorizes \$120 million in 2002 to help fund vulnerability assessments for drinking water plants, the House has completed action on H.R. 3178, which provides \$12 million annually for water security-related research and development programs. While there is no overall nationwide estimate yet, it is anticipated that these needs are at least \$1 billion annually for the next five years.

H.R. 3397, the Homeland Emergency Response Operations Act, was recently introduced to expedite the increased assignment of spectrum necessary to improve public safety communications among first responders.

NLC Policy & Position

NLC calls on Congress to authorize and oversee the new Office of Homeland Security as it begins implementing a strategic counterterrorism plan that ensures that local government will be the focal point for all disaster mitigation and recovery activities. Any strategic counterterrorism plan must provide a significant increase in direct funding to local governments for preparedness and response activities, including training, threat and vulnerability assessments, effective emergency communications systems, public health systems and critical infrastructure protection.

➤➤ACTION

➤Contact your Congressional delegation, urging their strong support for direct federal funding to cities and towns for homeland security. (Although bipartisan support to increase funding for homeland security is certain, differences could prevail over how funds should be distributed to cities -- through direct block grants similar to the Community Development Block Grant and LLEBG, or through indirect block grants that would be controlled by the states).

➤Cite any unanticipated security expenditures your city has incurred since September 11, along with the fact that local governments cannot deficit spend and must be made whole.

➤Urge Congress not to cut funding for existing federal programs vital to local public safety, such as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) and COPS program. These programs should not be consolidated (from direct sources of funding to local law enforcement agencies) and sent to the states.

➤Please visit NLC's legislative action center on-line at www.nlc.org to access updates on federal actions for homeland security and other municipal priorities.

For more information contact:

*Deborah Riggsby, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Policy & Federal Relations
(202) 626-3194/Fax (202) 626-3043
Riggsby@nlc.org*